MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

1

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1966

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman:
Councillor J. SCHOFIELD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:
Councillor G. WADSWORTH

Councillors:
C. J. AINSCOUGH, J.P.
Mrs. E. A. BROWN
I. CROPPER, J.P.
G. MONK
W. A. RIGBY
J. W. ROTHWELL
Mrs. M. M. TARBUCK

Clerk:
ROBERT GASKELL, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department:
Medical Officer of Health:
R. SCHOFIELD, M.D., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:
J. HOLDING

Additional Public Health Inspector:
P. S. HALL.

10 Bridgeman Terrace,
Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1966, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Public Health Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1967.

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 11,696 acres.

Population (Census 1961)	10,158
Estimated mid-1966 (Registrar General)	12,190
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1966— according to Rate Book	3,765
Rateable Value	£409,040
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	1,668

The District is mainly agricultural, with several residential villages. The chief industries are stone-quarrying, precast concrete manufacture, brick making, linoleum manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, glue and fertiliser manufacture, animal foodstuffs and a newspaper printing factory.

VITAL STATISTICS

	M	F	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	131	111	242
(Illegitimate)	2	3	5
	133	114	247
Still Births (Legitimate)	–	1	1
(Illegitimate)	–	–	–
	–	1	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:			
(Legitimate)	4	1	5
(Illegitimate)	–	–	–
	4	1	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	–	–	–
	3	1	4
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	–	–	–
	3	1	4

Deaths	119
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1966	17.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1966	13.4

TABLE I

	Live Births		Deaths (all Causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-Natal	
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1966	247	17.8	119	13.4	1	4	1	4.03	5	20	4	16
Year 1965	218	16.3	119	14.0	5	22	Nil	Nil	7	32	5	22
Year 1964	219	18.7	112	12.7	4	18	Nil	Nil	3	14	2	9
Year 1963	207	18.2	110	12.8	6	28	Nil	Nil	8	39	4	19
Year 1962	217	19.7	104	12.6	3	14	Nil	Nil	6	28	3	14
Year 1961	219	20.4	115	14.3	2	9	Nil	Nil	3	13	Nil	Nil
Avge. 5 years 1961–1965	—	18.7	—	13.7	—	18	Nil	Nil	—	25	—	12

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1966, with comparative figures for 1965 :—

TABLE II

	No. of Deaths			
	1966		1965	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	—
Cancer	14	4	7	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	13	10	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	17	5	15	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	—	2
Other Heart Disease	2	9	7	6
Other Circulatory Disease	4	4	1	3
Influenza	1	—	2	—
Pneumonia	1	2	2	2
Bronchitis	9	2	7	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	—	—
Congenital Malformation	—	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	8	4	6
Motor Accidents	1	—	4	1
All other Accidents	1	—	2	3
Suicide	—	1	—	—
	66	53	61	58

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:—

Ambulance Services—Ambulance services are provided by the Lancashire County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946. An Ambulance Station to cover the needs of the Rural District is established in Standish and the service is quite satisfactory.

Home Nursing—Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, home nursing facilities are provided by the Lancashire County Council.

Meals on Wheels Service.—A Meals on Wheels Service is provided for the elderly people in the Parbold and Appley Bridge areas who cannot easily prepare a mid-day meal for themselves. This service was commenced on 7th September, 1965.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Wigan Royal Infirmary and chemical analyses by the County Analyst, Preston. These arrangements are satisfactory.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The Makerfield Water Board are now the Statutory Undertakers for the Wigan Rural District.

Generally throughout the year the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Three dwellings only rely on private wells and springs for water—one in Haigh and two in Parbold.

TABLE III

WATER SUPPLY — YEAR 1966

Parish	No. of Houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1966		From Public Mains Direct to Houses		From private supplies, e.g., wells, springs, etc.	
	Existing Houses	New Houses	No. of Dwelling-Houses	Estimated No. of Population	No. of Dwelling-Houses	Estimated No. of Population
Dalton	—	—	154	447	—	—
Haigh	—	—	246	755	1	3
Parbold	—	16	483	1,416	2	7
Shevington	—	29	1,950	6,014	—	—
Worthington	—	1	41	179	—	—
Wrightington	—	10	1,082	3,369	—	—
Total— Whole District	—	56	3,956	12,180	3	10

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at end of 1966):—

Number of Privy Middens	3
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	28
Number of Pail Closets	200
Number of Fresh Water Closets	3,746
Number of Dry Ashpits	—
Number of Movable Dustbins	4,794
Number of Houses not on Water Carriage System	213

During the year 5 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c's.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Fourteen men, including two drivers, are employed in collection work. An eight-day refuse collection service is operated throughout the Council's District, where formerly there was a seven-day collection for part of the District and a fourteen-day collection in the outlying area. A new Dennis 35/50 cubic yard Paxit Major IIIA Continuous Loading Refuse Collection Vehicle has been purchased during the year, so that now two Dennis Paxit Refuse Collection Vehicles are engaged full-time and one Karrier Dual-Tip Refuse Collection Vehicle is engaged part-time on this work.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. During the year tipping has been commenced at Dalton.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

A Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is used for the cleansing and desludging of cesspools and septic tanks and no charge is made for this service. The contents of the vehicles are discharged into the public sewer.

Total Inspections made for all purposes by Public Health Inspectors during 1966 :—

No. of premises visited	585	No. of visits	1,410
No. of Defects or nuisances discovered	92	No. abated	80
No. of Notices served—Informal	75	Statutory	2
Legal proceedings	Nil		

SEWERAGE.

Good progress has been made during the year on the scheme for sewering the Shevington and Wrightington areas of Appley Bridge and it is expected that this will be completed in 1967. Wrightington Hospital and the Appley Bridge Works of B.G.C. (Marketing) Limited will also be connected.

The Scheme will complete the sewering of the built-up areas of the Rural District and fairly large rural areas have also been sewered.

Platt Lane, Worthington, is also sewered in conjunction with Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council, and the Wigan Rural District Council are anxious to abandon their Haigh Sewage Works by joining the Standish sewer. The village of Crooke in Shevington is to be sewered as soon as possible.

RIVERS (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1961.

With the extension of main drainage facilities and the abolition of numerous septic tanks, streams and ditches continue to show improvement in cleanliness and very few instances of pollution by septic tanks now exist.

To reduce ditch and stream pollution the Council desludge septic tanks free of cost.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the District. A swimming pool at Shevington Primary School has been provided by private subscription for the sole use of the school pupils. The bath water is to be analysed regularly.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES

There were no cases of infestation during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

1. Number of Rodent Operatives employed—1 part-time.
2. Action relating to rodent control during the year ended 31st December, 1966 :—

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district	3,803	156
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	72	25
(c) Number of (b) infested by rats	65	25
mice	7	—
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats or mice for reasons other than notification	—	38
(e) Number of (d) infested by rats	—	38
mice	—	—

Free disinfestation of rats and mice is given to all dwellings. For business premises the work is chargeable on a labour/materials basis. For factories and farms the Council have adopted a Contract Service and public sewers were test baited during the spring, no infestations being recorded.

SCHOOLS.

Total number of Schools in district at end of year	11
Sanitary conditions of Schools at end of year—	
(a) Number of Schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces	Nil
(b) Sanitary accommodation—Number of Schools with—	
(i) Fresh water closets only	11
(c) Drainage—Number of Schools with drainage to—	
(i) Public sewers	8
(ii) Private treatment works	3
(d) Refuse disposal—Number of Schools with—	
(i) Dustbins	11
(ii) Dry ashpits	Nil
(e) Water supply—Number of Schools supplied from—	
(i) Public mains	11
(ii) Private supplies	Nil
(f) Number of Schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for—	
(i) Washing	Nil
(ii) Drinking	Nil

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area. Frequent inspections are made of the premises. The factory concerned also have a contract with the Council for rodent treatment and the premises are frequently disinfested. There has been a marked improvement and rats are now few in number on the factory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

It has not been necessary to take any legal action during the year but constant watch has been kept on industrial premises within the area.

Only grates of the approved type capable of burning smokeless fuel were installed in newly erected dwellings. More and more new and existing dwellings are being provided with full or partial central heating.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

It has not been found necessary to take action under the provisions of this Act during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The purpose of this Act is to make provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in Offices, Shops and certain Railway Premises.

The following information has been furnished to H.M. Inspector of Factories :–

	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year.
Class of Premises:	
Offices	8
Retail Shops	15
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	–
Catering Establishments open to Public:	
Canteens	20
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	45
Number of general inspections carried out	21
Number of exemptions current at end of year	–
Number of prosecutions	–

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :–

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	18	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	37	18	—	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found :–

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	8	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includin offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	8	—	1	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

20 Outworkers were notified as being engaged in basket making.

There were no instances of work done in unwholesome premises.

HOUSING

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There has again been an increase in the number of private houses erected during the year and as a result of improved sewerage facilities and Standard Grants made under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, housing conditions and standards generally are now much more satisfactory than was previously the case.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year :–

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority	—	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	56	—

(2) Total number of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year 517

(3) INSPECTION of dwellings during the year :—

(i) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 177

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 481

(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit..... 92

(ii) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:–

(a) Demolition Orders have been made 16

(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made 30

(4) HOUSES DEMOLISHED :-

CLEARANCE AREAS :

(i)	Houses unfit for human habitation	—
(ii)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—
(iii)	Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—

NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

(i)	As a result of procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	1
(ii)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—
(iii)	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—
(iv)	Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—

(5) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :-

(i)	Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961	1
(ii)	Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—
(iii)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—

(6) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :-

		By Owner	By Local Authority
(i)	After informal action by Local Authority	—	—
(ii)	After formal notice under S.9 and S.16 Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(iii)	After formal notice under Public Health Act	—	—
(iv)	After modification or revocation of a Clearance Order under S.21, Housing Act, 1961	—	—
(v)	After determination of a Demolition Order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(vi)	After determination of a Closing Order under S.27, Housing Act, 1961	—	—

(7) UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1967):—

	No. of Houses	No. of separate Dwellings contained in Column (1)
Position at end of year :		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 48	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2)	—	—
(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—	—

(8) PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :-

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants of Houses in Col.(1)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	—	—

(9) HOUSING ACT, 1949 AND HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.:-

Number of Schemes submitted during the year

(a) by private individuals to Local Authority —

(b) by Local Authority to Ministry —

The Council do not give Discretionary Grants but it is anticipated that they will commence to do so during the year 1967/68.

(10) HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 and HOUSING ACTS, 1961 & 1964—STANDARD GRANTS :-

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted to Local Authority	14
(b) Approved by Local Authority	12
(c) Work completed	6

RENT ACT, 1957 :—

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and one Certificate was issued.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY :—

Under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, all persons carrying on the trade of distributor from premises within the District and all premises used as dairies, other than dairy farms are registered with the Council. Dairy farms and dairy farmers are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Number of distributors registered by the Local Authority and operating from :—

(i) Dairies in the district	5
(ii) Shops in the district other than dairies	4

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960 :—

Under the above-mentioned Regulations all dealers (other than producers) must obtain a licence from the Lancashire County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority.

(b) ICE CREAM :—

All the premises in the District are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream, the only loose ice cream being sold by itinerant vendors operating from outside the District.

(c) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

There is one private slaughterhouse within the District. Two cattle were killed and inspected during the year.

No premises are used for the slaughter and dressing of poultry.

DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

Two premises are licensed under the Order and these have been inspected during the year.

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections are made of restaurants, cafes, canteens, grocery and butchers' shops, hawkers' premises and vehicles and public houses. The standard of cleanliness has greatly improved.

Number of food premises by type of business in the District at the end of the year :—

Type of Business :	No.
General Grocers	34
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	7
Fishmongers	—
Meat Shops	6
Bakers and/or Confectioners	3
Fried Fish Shops	4
Sweets, Minerals and Ice Cream	2
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	35

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Type of business	No. registered at 31/12/66	No. of Inspections of registered premises during year
Ice Cream	22	12

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

115 cases of Measles were notified during the year, compared with 71 in 1965. 4 cases of Whooping Cough, 1 case of Typhoid Fever and 1 case of Erysipelas were also notified.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the years 1965 and 1966.

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Wigan Rural District who were immunised and vaccinated during the year 1966 :—

Type	Primary		Re-Inforcement	
	0–4	5–15	0–4	5–15
Diphtheria	199	26	183	393
Whooping Cough	193	4	162	1
Tetanus	198	26	182	374
Poliomyelitis	190	32	165	39
	Primary		Re-Vaccination	
	0–4	5–15	0–4	5–15
Smallpox Vaccination	124	12	1	29

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1966

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—20	20 and Over	Un-known	Remov'd to Hospital
Measles	115	6	11	19	17	7	51	1	1	2	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	121	6	11	19	18	7	54	1	2	3	1

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows :–

	Cases	Total No. of Cases
Dalton:		
Measles	4	4
Haigh:		
Measles	5	
Whooping Cough	3	8
Parbold:		–
Shevington:		
Measles	64	
Typhoid Fever	1	65
Worthington :		
Measles	1	
Whooping Cough	1	2
Wrightington :		
Measles	41	
Erysipelas	1	42
		121

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to Hospital.

CANCER.

18 Deaths, 14 males and 4 females, occurred in the year 1966, compared with 13 Deaths, 7 males and 6 females, in the year 1965.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1966

Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-Over	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctors, or by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — Section 47.

No cases were dealt with during the year under Section 47 of this Act.